



## **NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release:  
April 19, 2004

For More Information, Contact:  
Terry O'Clair, Director  
Division of Air Quality  
North Dakota Department of Health  
Phone: 701.328.5188  
E-mail: [toclair@state.nd.us](mailto:toclair@state.nd.us)

### **North Dakota Meets Health Standards for Ozone Levels**

BISMARCK, N.D. – North Dakota is one of only 19 states that meet new federal health standards for ground-level ozone, State Health Officer Terry Dwelle, M.D., announced today.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the National Air Quality Standard for 8-Hour Ozone is designed to protect the public from exposure to ground-level ozone. Ozone is unhealthy to breathe, especially for people who have respiratory diseases and for children and adults who are active outdoors.

“We are working hard to maintain our excellent quality of life in North Dakota, and a clean environment helps to ensure that,” said Governor John Hoeven. “I’m pleased that North Dakota has the distinction of being one of only 19 states that meet these new, more stringent air quality standards.”

Ozone aggravates asthma, damages the lining of the lungs and makes breathing more difficult. Sources of ozone include the exhaust from cars and trucks; emissions from power plants, refineries and other large industrial facilities; and some natural sources.

“We in North Dakota are fortunate to breathe some of the cleanest air in the country,” Dwelle said. “The North Dakota Department of Health is committed to ensuring our air remains clean to safeguard the health of every North Dakotan.”

For more information about air quality in North Dakota, contact Terry O'Clair, director of the Department of Health's Division of Air Quality, at 701.328.5188.

-- 30 --